(c) WBIDC has informed that other companies of Tata Group would take the place of Tata Tea and Tata Chemicals, so that Tata's commitment to HPC is fulfilled.

(d) WBIDC do not apprehend any delay towards implementation of the project.

(e) The project will be implemented in two phases. WBIDC expects the first phase of the project costing about Rs. 3000 crores to be completed by 1996-97.

Short supply of Phosphoric Acid

4160. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that phosphoric acid is in acute short supply in the country for manufacturing of Complex Phosphoric Fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether Government would place Import of phosphoric acid under OGL and waive the custom duty for manufacturing of phosphoric fertilizers to enable sick units to survive; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The Indian phosphoric fertilizers industry is largely dependent on imported phosphoric acid for its production needs. The imports of phosphoric acid have been decanalised with effect from 1-4-1992 and no customs duty is leviable thereon.

Pollution caused by H. F. C.

4161. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the rearing of Muga is greatly affected due to the emission of hazardous and harmful chemicals by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Namrup unit in Assam in and around Borhat, Nainrup etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that the inspite of repeated instructions and reminders from Government on action has been taken by the authorities of the Namrup units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against the recalcitrant Fertilizer unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) have recently carried out extensive modifications in the Sulphuric Acid Plant at their Namrup unit with a view to controlling the pollution as per the standards prescribed by the State Pollution Control Board. After the above modifications, emission from the Sulphuric Acid Plant are reported to be within the permissible limits.

Demand for Pharmaceuticals Sector by ASSOCHEM

4162. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM has demanded to reform the pharmaceuticals sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) had organised a workshop on the subject of 'Price control in pharmaceutical Industry. Its relevance in the current Indian Economy', at New Delhi, on 17-7-93. Various speakers expressed their views on the desirability of price control or decontrol. The price control on drugs and its related aspects have been covered in the Background Note on Review of Drug Policy 86, which has been discussed in the House in the current session.

Board level changes in Public Sector Fertilizer Units

4163. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sweeping board-level changes have been made by Government in all public sector fertilizer units;

(b) if so, the strategy behind the sweeping Board-level changes in fertiliser units;

(c) whether it is a fact that an increased number of non-official Directors have been appointed; and

(d) if so, the details of all non-official Directors appointed in FCI, HFC, RCF, NFL, FACT and PDIL since 1st June, 1993 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Regarding Hike in Prices by Polyster Staple Fibre Manufacturers

4164. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Polyester Staple Fibre Manufacturers have taken a decision to hike in the prices of their end product by another Rs. 5 per Kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any protest against the decision of the PSF Units, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Since there is no price control in the petrochemical sector, market forces and demand-supply determine the prices.

Cases with CBI regarding payment of subsidy to Fertilizer Units

4165. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has detected certain cases where subsidy have been paid, although the unit did not exist or had not produced fertilizer for which subsidy was paid by F. I. C. C.;

(b) what are the details of these cases, when did they occur and whether responsibility of concerned bureaucrats have been fixed; and

(c) what steps have been taken to revamp F. I. C. C. and remove Director (Cost) and the person responsibile for increase in subsidy on account of negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) During the year 1988, CBI registered a case against M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd., Chheratah, Amritsar and 33 other persons for investigation into the payment to the said firm of subsidy amounting to Rs. 3,38,45,939 for the period from Dec., 1980 to April, 1987 on the basis of bogus documents.

The CBI report which has since been finalised, has recommended prosecution of two private firms viz. M/s. Punjab Fertilizer & Pesticide Industries and M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd. of Chheratah, Amritsar and 22 others including 17 public servants. It has also recommended initiation of regular departmental action against 9 other officials.

(c) It has been decided to conduct a study of the working of the Office of FICC through a reputed professional institute.

Expenditure on Advertisement by Multinational Drug Companies

4166. SHRI KRISHANL LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinationals, producing drugs, spend a lot on the advertisement of their products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is publicity grant given to IDPL and other organizations to publicise their products;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is much less sales of products from public sector enterprises as compared to private sector; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to issue guidelines for both public sector undertakings and private sector companies in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In the case of drugs under price control, post-manufacturing expenses, which include expenditure on promotional expenses, are allowed while fixing the prices as provided for in DPCO, 1987 and as such there is no separate ceiling on expenditure on advertisement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Sales volumes of any company is dependent on various commercial factors as prevailing from time to time.

Power Cooling Towers in Sindri Unit of FCI LTD.

4167. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: